

TEXT OF TELEGRAM 79ISLAMA007801

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ADS-00 MCT-03 HA-05 TRSE-00 AID-05
CIAE-00 DDDE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /090 W
-----047584 141752Z /40

R 111125Z JUL 79
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3842
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY ROME
INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL LAHORE
AMCONSUL PESHAWAR
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 12065 N/A
TAGS: PEPR, PINS, MILI, SREF, AF, PK
SUBJ(U) PRESS REPORTS ON AFGHAN DISSIDENT GROUPS' APPEALS TO
FORMER KING ZAHIR SHAH

REF:(A) ISLAMABAD 7163, (B) ISLAMABAD 7638

1.(U) URDU PRESS JULY 8 REPORTS TWO AFGHAN REBEL GROUPS(ANLF
AND HEZB-I-ISLAMI) HAVE SENT REPRESENTATIVES TO ROME TO APPEAL
TO FORMER KING, ZAHIR SHAH, TO TAKE COMMAND OF DISSIDENT FORCES
PRESENTLY FIGHTING DRA.

2.(U) URDU "JANG" REPORTS THAT "ALTHOUGH DISSIDENT GROUPS ARE
NOT FULLY SATISFIED WITH ZAHIR SHAH(AS A LEADER),(THEY) HAVE
BEEN ASKED TO FORGET THEIR ANIMOSITY IN A LARGER NATIONAL
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INTEREST." "JANG" ARTICLE PUTS THE PRESENT DRA ARMED FORCES
PERSONNEL COUNT AT 92,000. IT ALSO REPORTS A RECENT DELIVERY
OF HEAVILY-ARMED HELICOPTERS TO THE DRA FROM THE USSR,
EACH WITH "FOUR ANTI-TANK GUNS, TWO GUIDED MISSILES, AND
128 OTHER MISSILES OF 57MM." THE AFGHAN FORCES ARE
REPORTED TO HAVE A TOTAL OF 160 FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT, 25
HELICOPTERS, 700 TANKS, AND MORE THAN 1000 ARMORED CARS,

ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE.

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3. COMMENT: (BEGIN LOU) THE APPROACHES TO ZAHIR SHAH BY THE DISSIDENT GROUPS HAVE NOT BEEN PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGED PREVIOUSLY, ALTHOUGH THE DISSIDENT LEADERS DO SPEAK PRIVATELY OF THEM. PUBLICITY IN THE MEDIA NOW MAY REPRESENT AN ATTEMPT BY THE GOP TO BRING FURTHER PRESSURE ON THE DRA (IN THE WAKE OF THE DOST V SIT TO ISLAMABAD. REFTEL B) TO CONTINUE THE BILATERAL DIALOGUE. THE APPEALS TO ZAHIR SHAH BY THE DISSIDENTS WOULD - IN THE MINDS OF MANY PAKISTANIS-- TEND TO LEGITIMIZE THEIR CAUSE AND DETRACT FROM THE "OUT-LAW" AND "BANDIT" IMAGE GIVEN TO THE GROUPS BY THE DRA. THUS MAKING THEIR PRESENCE ON PAK SOIL MORE DEFENSIBLE FOR THE GOP.

1 THE MILITARY STATISTICS PROBABLY EMANATED FROM THE
 *DISSIDENT GROUPS' PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICES IN PESHAWAR
 *AND ARE THEREFORE SUSPECT. (END LOU) (EXEMPT)
 *RI00

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